

## MORNING PRAYER

Blessed are you, sovereign God, creator of heaven and earth, to you be praise and glory for ever. As your living Word, eternal in heaven, assumed the frailty of our mortal flesh, may the light of your love be born in us to fill our hearts with joy as we sing: Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Blessed be God for ever. **Amen.**

### PSALM 84

#### READING FROM SCRIPTURE

*Or Daily Office Lectionary from page 937 of the Book of Common Prayer*

|                 |                       |                            |
|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Jan. 2</i>   | <i>Genesis 12:1-7</i> | <i>John 6:35-42, 48-51</i> |
| <i>Jan. 3</i>   | <i>Gen. 28:10-22</i>  | <i>John 10:7-17</i>        |
| <i>Jan. 4</i>   | <i>Exodus 3:1-12</i>  | <i>John 14:6-14</i>        |
| <i>Jan. 5</i>   | <i>Joshua 1:1-9</i>   | <i>John 15:1-16</i>        |
| <i>Epiphany</i> | <i>Isaiah 52:7-10</i> | <i>Matthew 12:14-21</i>    |
| <i>Jan. 7</i>   | <i>Isa. 52:3-6</i>    | <i>John 2:1-11</i>         |
| <i>Jan. 8</i>   | <i>Isa. 59:15-21</i>  | <i>John 4:46-54</i>        |
| <i>Jan. 9</i>   | <i>Isa. 63:1-5</i>    | <i>John 5:1-15</i>         |

#### REFLECTIONS: SILENT AND WRITTEN

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

##### PRAYERS

*The Church throughout the World*  
*The World: for peace and goodwill among neighbors*  
*Our Nation and her Leaders*  
*Our Community*  
*Grace Episcopal Church*  
*My own Thanksgivings and Concerns*

##### COLLECT

Eternal Father, you gave to your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of him who is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

##### BENEDICTION

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** *Romans 15:13*

## EVENING PRAYER

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense,  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

*Psalm 141:2*

### PSALM 131

#### READING FROM SCRIPTURE

*Or Daily Office Lectionary from page 937 of the Book of Common Prayer*

|                                      |                         |                            |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Second Sunday after Christmas</i> | <i>1 John 2:12-17</i>   | <i>John 6:41-47</i>        |
| <i>Jan. 2</i>                        | <i>Hebrews 11:1-12</i>  | <i>John 6:35-42, 48-51</i> |
| <i>Jan. 3</i>                        | <i>Heb. 11:13-22</i>    | <i>John 10:7-17</i>        |
| <i>Jan. 4</i>                        | <i>Heb. 11:23-31</i>    | <i>John 14:6-14</i>        |
| <i>Jan. 5</i>                        | <i>Heb. 11:32--12:2</i> | <i>John 15:1-16</i>        |
| <i>Epiphany</i>                      | <i>Rev. 21:22-27</i>    | <i>Matthew 12:14-21</i>    |
| <i>Jan. 7</i>                        | <i>Rev. 2:1-7</i>       | <i>John 2:1-11</i>         |
| <i>Jan. 8</i>                        | <i>Rev. 2:8-17</i>      | <i>John 4:46-54</i>        |
| <i>Jan. 9</i>                        | <i>Rev. 2:18-29</i>     | <i>John 5:1-15</i>         |

#### REFLECTIONS: SILENT AND WRITTEN

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. **Amen.**

##### COLLECT

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

#### THE SONG OF SIMEON

Lord, you now have set your servant free\*  
to go in peace as you have promised;  
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, \*  
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:  
A Light to enlighten the nations, \*  
and the glory of your people Israel.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. **Amen.**

## THE CHRIST HAS COME!

Christmas is one of the two central feasts of the Christian faith. It has not always been celebrated because it was not instituted in the Bible. But the vast majority of Christians throughout history have celebrated, but not perhaps with so many stores involved.

Christmas is called in the Book of Common Prayer the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ or Christmas. It is sometimes called the Feast of the Incarnation or our Lord Jesus Christ. I prefer the proper feast names to explain what we are celebrating. It is not just the birthday of Jesus, but rather what his birth represents.

Christ is called Emmanuel, *God is with us*. The Bible makes the point that God's point is to set us free from our sins and allow us to become God's children. (*John 1 and others*.) We could not get to God, so God came to us. God loves us and wants to be in relationship with us. That is the point of Christmas.

To serve a God who comes and is born of a woman, no small feat for either one, is to serve a God who is vulnerable and whose holiness is defined in love and mercy, rather than mere power and coercion. This message still seems radical. We expect God to win. We don't expect God to slip in by the servants' entrance and serve us manna. Yet, here is the Christ, wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in the manger.

**Christmas** begins for us traditional Christians on Christmas Day. We celebrate the season of Christmas until January 6 the Epiphany. Hence, the twelve days of Christmas. So Merry Christmas! Peace on the Earth and Good Will toward all the World! and Let it begin with us. That is Grace as a way of Life.

**Epiphany** is the end of the season of Christmas, and is remembered as the visitation of the Magi, wisemen from the East. Jesus is a toddler when they come, if you read the Greek for boy as it should be. But we remember the Feast as Epiphany, the coming of the light of Christ to the Gentiles. The Visitation of the Magi is given a profound theological/spiritual meaning. Christ has come to us! So let us celebrate by becoming wise in our understanding of Christ this year.

Worship, Study, and Service with an ethic of Welcome. That is how we incarnate Grace. It's our way of life.



## CHRISTMAS TO EPIPHANY DAILY PRAYER

2 January – 9 January 2011

*I will give you as a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.*  
*Isaiah 49:6b*

### CONFESSION

Most merciful God, we confess to you,  
before the whole company of heaven and one another,  
that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed,  
and in what we have failed to do.

Forgive us our sins, heal us by your Spirit  
and raise us to new life in Christ. **Amen.**

O, Lord, open our lips,  
and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.



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